

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

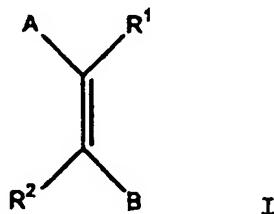
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-16 (canceled).

17 (new). A formulation comprising a first polymeric compound and a second compound, wherein said first polymeric compound is selected from:

(A) a compound prepared in a method comprising the following steps:

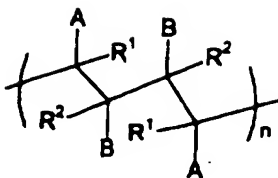
(a) providing an aqueous solvent containing a compound having the following formula



wherein A is an optionally-substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group; B is an optionally-substituted aromatic or heteroaromatic group; A and B are the same or different and at least one comprises a polar atom or group, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> independently comprise a non-polar atom or group; and

(b) causing the groups C=C in said compound I to react with one another to form said compound; or

(B) a compound having the formula



wherein A, B, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are as described in (A) (a) and n is an integer.

18 (new). The formulation of claim 17, wherein, in step (A) (a), said compound I is in said solvent at a concentration at which molecules of said compound I aggregate.

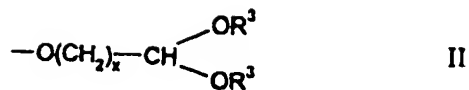
19 (new). The formulation of claim 17, wherein, in step (A) (b), the groups C=C in said compound I are caused to react in a photochemical reaction.

20 (new). The formulation of claim 17, wherein A and B are different.

21 (new). The formulation of claim 17, wherein one of groups A and B comprises a substituent which is an alkyl group.

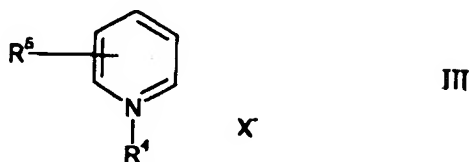
22 (new). The formulation of claim 17, wherein one of groups A and B comprises a substituent which includes a carbonyl or acetal group.

23 (new). The formulation of claim 17, wherein A is a phenyl group substituted by a formyl group or a group having the following formula:



wherein x is an integer from 1 to 6 and each R<sup>3</sup> is independently an alkyl or phenyl group or together form an alkylene group.

24 (new). The formulation of claim 17, wherein B has the following formula:



wherein R<sup>4</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or aralkyl group, R<sup>5</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group and X represents a strongly acid ion.

25 (new). The formulation of claim 17, wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are independently selected from a hydrogen atom and an optionally-substituted alkyl group.

26 (new). The formulation of claim 17, wherein A is an optionally substituted aromatic group, B is an optionally-substituted heteroaromatic group, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are

independently selected from a hydrogen atom and an optionally-substituted alkyl group.

27 (new). The formulation of claim 17, wherein said second compound comprises a second polymeric compound which includes one or more functional groups capable of reacting with said first polymeric compound.

28 (new). The formulation of claim 27, wherein said second polymeric compound is selected from optionally substituted polyvinylalcohol, polyvinylacetate, polyalkylene glycols and collagen (and any component thereof).

29 (new). A formulation according to claim 27, wherein said second polymeric compound is selected from optionally substituted polyvinylalcohol, polyvinylacetate and polyakylene glycols.

30 (new). A formulation according to claim 27, wherein said second polymeric compound is selected from polyvinylalcohol and polyvinylacetate.

31 (new). A formulation according to claim 27, wherein said second polymeric compound is selected from optionally substituted polyvinylacetate.

32 (new). A formulation according to claim 27, wherein said second polymeric compound is polyvinylacetate.

33 (new). A method of preparing a material, the method comprising selecting a formulation according to claim 17 and causing the first polymeric compound to react with said second compound.

34 (new). A method according to claim 33, wherein an acid is provided in said formulation to facilitate the reaction of the first polymeric compound and said second compound.

35 (new). A method of preparing a formulation according to claim 17, which comprises providing a first polymeric compound in a solvent together with said second compound and intimately mixing the compounds.